Private sector Investment in Satellites

†*118. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country needs a large number of satellite transponders in the ensuing years;

(b) whether we are in the position to meet this requirement.

(c) if so, whether there is any scheme for investment by the private sector in satellites; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. We will be in a position to meet this demand.

(c) and (d) There is no specific scheme for investment by the private sector satellites. However, they are free to make investments in satellites.

Regularisation of Government Servants

*119. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government servants who rendered 240 days or more service each in two consecutive years in a higher category would be regularized in higher category;

(b) if so, the details of rules in this regard;

(c) whether the above said rules are being followed by the various departments and Ministries; and

(d) if not, what action Government propose to take to regularise such workers in the higher category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. There is no such rule.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Regular apointment in a higher category can be made only against a clear vacancy in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Recruitment

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rules; duly observing the provisions of reservation and after following the prescribed procedure for promotion/recruitment as the case may be Regularisation in any other manner is not permissible.

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries after attack on Parliament

*120. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign dignitaries who have visited India during December and January 2001 and 2002 respectively especially after attack on Parliament by the terrorists on 13th december, 2001;

(b) the details of the discussions and agreement on various issues especially the countries view on cross border terrorism; and

(c) the stand of those countries thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) The details of the visits to India of foreign dignitaries at the level of Head of state, Heads of Government and Foreign Minister during December 2001 and January 2002, especially after the attack on the Indian Parliament on December 13, 2001, are contained in the Statement (*see* below)

During the visits, wide ranging discussions were held on bialateral, global and other issues of mutual interest. This included an exchange of views on international terrorism. We emphasised the threat posed by cross border terrorism. There was agreement on the need to condemn all forms of terrorism, to combat terrorists and those who sponsor and abet them. There was agreement also on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1373 which contains comprehensive measures to combat terrorism, as also to ratify and implement all UN sectoral conventions on terrorism.

Statement

Visit of foreign dignitaries after attack on Parliament

Visits by Heads of State / Government

(i) Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, December 22-24, 2001.

(ii) Rt. hon. Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, January 4-7, 2002